

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
FORT LESLEY J. McNAIR, DC 20319-5058

MDW Regulation
No. 215-5

13 December 1999

Morale, Welfare And Recreation
DR. MARY E. WALKER AWARD

FOR THE COMMANDER:

STEPHEN B. MASSEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

A
B
C

OFFICIAL:



JOYCE HENDERSON
LTC, AG
Adjutant General

History. This printing publishes a new regulation.

Summary. This regulation establishes the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER) as the proponent of the Dr. Mary E. Walker (DRMEW) Award Program within the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW). It prescribes nomination procedures; eligibility and selection criteria; and functions, membership, rules of order, and meeting schedules of selection boards.

Applicability. This regulation applies to all elements of MDW with soldiers assigned or attached, active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. It applies specifically to the staff elements with responsibility for managing and administering this program.

Supplementation. This regulation may be supplemented at the garrison level. Proposed supplements must be submitted for approval to Commander, MDW, ATTN: ANPE, 103 Third Avenue, Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5058.

Suggested improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER), MDW. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, U.S. Army Military District of Washington, ATTN: ANPE, 103 Third Avenue, Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5058.

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1. Purpose

This regulation provides information and administrative instructions for the MDW DRMEW award for outstanding volunteer service.

2. References

MDW Reg 215-7, MDW Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

4. General

a. The MDW DRMEW award is an award for Army spouses and civilians whose volunteer achievements and performance merit special recognition. The DRMEW award is a means of recognizing those who have contributed significantly to the quality of life for soldiers; exemplify personal concern for the needs, training, development, and welfare of soldiers; and concern for families of soldiers.

b. Appendix A is a brief biography of Dr. Mary E. Walker. The DREW award emblem is represented at figure 1. A copy of the MDW Form 1062 (United States Army Military District of Washington Dr. Mary E. Walker Award) (Certificate) is at figure 2.

5. Eligibility

Spouses (male and female) of active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers of all ranks are eligible. All volunteers will be eligible regardless of the nominee's or nominee spouses' rank or position. The MDW Command Sergeant Major (CSM) can with discretion, extend eligibility to those individuals who provide outstanding support to soldiers and their families, that would not otherwise be eligible.

6. Administration

a. The MDW Command Sergeant Major will exercise overall program administration at major Army command (MACOM) level.

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b. Subordinate commands will have procedures in place to administer the program at the local level within the appropriate CSM's office. Responsibility will not be delegated to lower levels. Responsibilities will include reviewing the DRMEW award quarterly in conjunction with the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) selection boards, the oversight determination of DRMEW award levels, and preparation of the following DRMEW awards:

(1) The MDW Form 1062 (United States Army Military District of Washington Dr. Mary E. Walker Award) (Certificate) signed by the MDW Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major.

(2) Membership medallion.

c. The DRMEW award is a prestigious award to recognize volunteer service that makes a substantial contribution and has a positive impact on the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

d. The DRMEW award is not part of the Department of the Army awards program and should not compete with other established awards. It will not be used in lieu of awards for commendation, meritorious service, routine departure, or as an interim award while awaiting Department of the Army awards.

e. The DRMEW award is not intended for short term or single event recognition. An individual may receive only one DRMEW award.

f. The DRMEW award selection process will be in three phases and will correspond with the SAMC selection process outlined in MDW Reg 215-7.

(1) Phase 1: Nomination. Anyone may nominate an eligible individual to the unit senior NCO. The senior NCO will screen and evaluate nomination packets prior to forwarding to initial DRMEW selection board. Nomination packets will include the nominee's and spouse identification, documentation of volunteer acts/service and justification for nomination.

(2) Phase 2: DRMEW Award Initial Selection Board. The nomination packet(s) will be forwarded for review to the unit level initial SAMC selection board conducted under the direction of the unit senior NCO. The DRMEW award nomination packet(s) selected to continue will be forwarded to the final SAMC/DRMEW selection board.

Appendix A
The Biography of Dr. Mary E. Walker

Dr. Mary E. Walker always stood out in a crowd. She was born 26 November 1832, in Oswego Town near Oswego, New York. As a child, she was distinguished for her strength of mind and her decision of character. She grew up an independent young woman. She always had an inclination to be useful in the world. A woman of great energy, in her early years she wore bloomers, the pantaloons-style garb of the radical feminists of the age. When she graduated the only female in her class from Syracuse Medical College in 1855, she became one of the few women physicians in the country. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 Dr. Walker, then twenty-nine, journeyed to Washington and applied for an appointment as an Army surgeon, much to the shock of the Medical Department, which rejected her with considerable verbosity. Not one to be discouraged she stayed in Washington, serving as an unpaid volunteer in various camps and, when the patent office was converted into a hospital she served as assistant surgeon and worked without pay. During that time, she was instrumental in establishing an organization, which aided needy women who came to Washington to visit wounded relatives. Dr. Walker met with considerable abuse over her persistent demands to be made a surgeon, but also earned considerable respect for her many good works. Meanwhile she abandoned bloomers and adopted a modified version of male attire, with a calf-length skirt worn over trousers keeping her hair relatively long and curled so that anyone could know that she was a woman. In November 1862, Dr. Walker presented herself at the Virginia headquarters of MG Ambrose Burnside and was taken on as a field surgeon, although still on a volunteer basis. She treated the wounded at Warrenton and in Fredericksburg in December 1862. Almost a year later, she was in Chattanooga tending the casualties of the battle of Chickamauga. After the battle, she again requested a commission as an Army doctor. In September 1863, MG George H. Thomas appointed her as an assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland, and she was assigned to the 52d Ohio Regiment, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, a position in that she served well, wearing a somewhat modified version of the standard surgeon's uniform. Many stories were told of her bravery under fire. However, she served in this capacity for but a short time. In April 1864, she was captured by Confederate troops; having remained behind to tend wounded upon a Union retirement. Charged with being a spy and arrested, her male attire constituting the principal evidence against her, Dr. Walker spent 4 months in various prisons, subject to much abuse for her unladylike occupation and attire, until she was

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exchanged for a Confederate surgeon on 12 August 1864. Years later, she took great pride in this man for woman exchange. In October 1864, the Medical Department granted Dr. Walker a contract as an acting assistant surgeon. Despite her repeated requests for battlefield duty, she was not again sent into the field. She spent the rest of the war as superintendent at a Louisville, Kentucky, female prison hospital and a Clarksville, Tennessee, orphanage. Released from government contract at the end of the war, Dr. Walker lobbied for a brevet promotion to major for her services. Secretary of War Stanton would not grant the request. President Andrew Johnson asked him if there was some other way to recognize her service. A Medal of Honor was prepared for Dr. Walker and presented to her in January 1866; she would wear it every day for the rest of her life. After the war, Dr. Walker remained active in the women's rights movement and was a crusader against immorality, alcohol and tobacco, and for clothing and election reform. One of her more unusual positions was that there was no need for a women's suffrage act as women already had the vote as American citizens. Her taste in clothes caused frequent arrests on such charges as impersonating a man. At one trial, she asserted her right to dress as I please in free America on whose tented fields I have served for 4 years in the cause of human freedom. The judge dismissed the case and ordered the police never to arrest Dr. Walker on that charge again. She left the courtroom to hearty applause. In 1916, Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards to include only actual combat with an enemy. Several months later, in 1917, the Board of Medal Awards, after reviewing the merits of the awardees of the Civil War awards, ruled Dr. Walker's Medal, as well as those of 910 other recipients, as unwarranted and it was revoked. She died on 21 February 1919, at the age of 86. However, Dr. Mary Walker was not forgotten. Nearly 60 years after her death, at the urging of a descendant, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records reviewed the case. On 19 June 1977, Army Secretary Clifford L. Alexander approved the recommendation by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to restore the Medal of Honor to her. Dr. Mary E. Walker remains the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

(3) Phase 3: SAMC Final Selection Board. The SAMC final selection board will review DRMEW award nomination packet(s) and determine if the nominee warrants selection for the DRMEW award. Quotas will not be established. The final selection board need not select candidates if they do not meet required standards. Final selection board will retain nomination packet(s) of selected volunteers.

g. At any level of review, nomination packet(s) not meeting required standards for the DRMEW award will be reviewed to determine appropriate local recognition for the nominee's contribution(s).

h. The DRMEW award will be presented at MDW SAMC induction ceremony or other such ceremony commensurate with this level of award.

7. Criteria

a. Eligible spouses and other volunteers determined by the MDW Command Sergeant Major, who have distinguished themselves through outstanding volunteer service, contributing to the mission of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, and to the welfare of the Army family, may be nominated for the DRMEW award.

b. The intent of this award is to recognize those whose voluntary service to our country is often behind the scenes. Their efforts, nevertheless, improve their communities and enhance the overall military lifestyle.

c. The volunteer service must directly benefit soldiers or their families or be readily identified as bringing great credit on the Army family. Volunteer service in the civilian community may be included if it benefits soldiers and their families.

d. Level of individual sacrifice and dedication should be considered. Merit/quality/impact of volunteer accomplishment(s)/contribution(s) should also be considered. The length of time spent in a volunteer position or number of volunteer hours may be included but are not required.

(1) Volunteer service may be to/at several installations/units of assignment.

(2) Volunteer must not have received a monetary incentive for acts or contributed services being considered for award.

DR. MARY E. WALKER AWARD

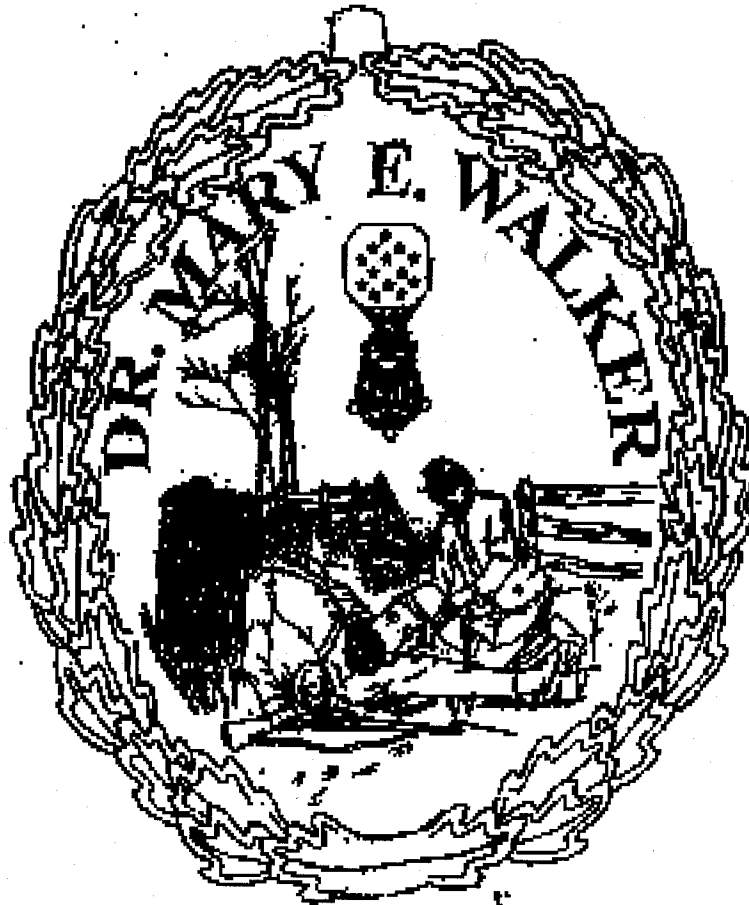


Figure 1. The Dr. Mary E. Walker Club Membership Medallion



**UNITED STATES ARMY
MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
Dr. Mary E. Walker Award**

Is Presented To

as an outstanding military spouse for demonstrating dedicated and exemplary volunteerism, that improved the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

Dr. Mary E. Walker

is the only woman in the United States history to receive the Medal of Honor. She became one of the first women physicians in the country in 1855. At the outbreak of war in 1861, Dr. Walker was denied a commission as an Army surgeon because of her gender. She served as an unpaid volunteer in Washington, in various military camps, and in a hospital for Indiana troops. She was instrumental in establishing an organization which aided needy women who came to Washington to visit wounded relatives. She served as a field surgeon on a volunteer basis, rendering assistance at tent hospitals in Virginia. She was eventually appointed as an assistant surgeon and assigned to the 52d Ohio Regiment. With immense courage and bravery rarely matched, Dr. Walker demonstrated her dedication to the American cause at great personal risk. She consistently discounted personal injuries and great hardships to care for others. She was captured and a prisoner of war for four months before being freed in a prisoner exchange. Through her actions, Dr. Mary E. Walker set the standards for helping to improve soldiers' quality of life for generations.

On this _____ day of _____, 19 _____

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

MAJOR GENERAL, USA
COMMANDING GENERAL

MDW Form 1062, 1 Apr 99

Figure 2. Sample of MDW Form 1062 for a DRMEW Award

Glossary

Section I

Abbreviations

ATTN	attention
CSM	Command Sergeant Major
DCSPER	Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, MDW
DRMEW	Dr. Mary E. Walker
MACOM	major Army command
MDW	Military District of Washington
NCO	noncommissioned officer
SAMC	Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

Section II

Terms

Dr. Mary E. Walker

The name of the only woman in United States history to receive the Medal of Honor. She was a humanitarian devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the Civil War, often at the risk of her own life. She was a patriot, dedicated and loyal to her country, serving on a volunteer basis as a field surgeon.